



**CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
AGENDA REPORT**

CONSENT CALENDAR

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: Ken Stripling

DATE: March 28, 2017

SUBJECT: STATE LEGISLATION: ASSEMBLY BILL 1172

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

PRESENTER: Michael Murphy

RECOMMENDED ACTION

City Council adopt the City Council Legislative Committee recommendation to support Assembly Bill 1172 (Acosta) and transmit position statements to Assembly Member Acosta, Santa Clarita’s state legislative delegation, appropriate legislative committees, Governor Brown, and the League of California Cities.

BACKGROUND

Authored by Assembly Member Dante Acosta (R-38) and introduced in the Assembly on February 17, 2017, Assembly Bill 1172 authorizes the California Transportation Commission to relinquish to the City of Santa Clarita all or any portion of Sierra Highway. This bill is being introduced at the request of the City of Santa Clarita.

The Legislature provides statutory authorization to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish state highway segments to local jurisdictions under specified conditions. Generally, relinquishments are subject to terms and conditions of agreements between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and a local jurisdiction seeking control of a local highway segment. Past relinquishments, similar to this bill, have typically involved a one-time payment of State Highway Account funds to a local jurisdiction for rehabilitation necessary to meet appropriate standards.

In the early 1970s, the Antelope Valley Freeway was constructed and the State Route 14 highway designation was assigned to the freeway from the old route along Sierra Highway. However, the State of California retained ownership and maintenance responsibility for portions of Sierra Highway. Currently, Caltrans retains ownership and maintenance responsibility for the portion of Sierra Highway between approximately Newhall Avenue and Friendly Valley Parkway within the City of Santa Clarita.

Although AB 1172 authorizes the California Transportation Commission to relinquish up to all of Sierra Highway, the City of Santa Clarita (City) is presently only interested in assuming ownership of, and maintenance responsibility for, the portion of Sierra Highway approximately between the intersection of Golden Valley Road and the intersection of Friendly Valley Parkway. This portion of Sierra Highway, shown on the attached map, is approximately 0.7 miles long. Relinquishment of this specific section of Sierra Highway will provide the City with greater control over traffic flow and road maintenance.

The relinquishment must include an agreement between the City of Santa Clarita and Caltrans, identifying the specific portion of Sierra Highway that is agreed to be relinquished to the City. The relinquishment becomes effective immediately after the County Recorder's recordation of the relinquishment resolution, which contains approval of the terms and conditions of the relinquishment by the California Transportation Commission.

Caltrans has not identified the specific amount of one-time funding for the portion of Sierra Highway the City of Santa Clarita is interested in acquiring. Caltrans does not typically conduct a cost/benefit analysis and enter into negotiations on a relinquishment until legislative authority for a relinquishment has been provided. Based on other relinquishments, funding is dependent on numerous factors including roadway condition, projected maintenance costs and any planned capital projects.

Assembly Bill 1172 was referred to the Assembly Committee on Transportation on March 9, 2017. No hearing has been scheduled by the Committee on Transportation as of the writing of this report. The City Council Legislative Committee met on March 10, 2017, and recommends that the City Council adopt a "support" position for Assembly Bill 1172.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

1. Adopt a "neutral" position on Assembly Bill 1172
2. Adopt an "oppose" position on Assembly Bill 1172
3. Take no action on Assembly Bill 1172
4. Refer Assembly Bill 1172 back to the Legislative Committee
5. Other action, as determined by the City Council

FISCAL IMPACT

The resources required to implement the recommended action are contained within the City's adopted 2016/17 budget.

ATTACHMENTS

- AB 1172 - Sierra Highway Relinquishment
- AB 1172 - Sierra Highway Map